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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

Assistance to Land-Use Planning
(ETH/78/003)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	March 1979
Starting date of project activities:	March 1979
Planned completion date:	November 1981
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Agriculture and Settlement (MOAS)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$2 048 300
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Ethiopia is a predominantly agricultural country with scarce identified mineral resources. Land is therefore the only major, dependable resource not only for the sustenance of the population, but also for the country's long-term development. Not much of the available land in the country is currently productive, due to a combination of factors. These range from widespread degradation through erosion and deforestation to overgrazing, inadequate communications and poor land-use practices.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

2. In an effort to promote more effective and productive use of the nation's land resources the Government introduced, in 1975, a series of radical land-reform measures. With broad social and economic objectives, these measures led to the removal of age-old land-tenure constraints to economic development through the introduction of a more egalitarian land-tenure system.

II. Objectives and activities

3. In order to provide the institutional structure capable of ensuring implementation of the appropriate land-use directives envisaged by the land-reform legislation, a Land Use Planning and Distribution Department was created in 1977 within the Ministry of Agriculture and Settlement. The development objective of the project will thus be to strengthen and assist this Department to develop national capacities in land-use studies, land-use planning and land administration to serve the immediate and future needs of an over-all programme for the optimal use of Ethiopia's land resources. This is expected to be achieved through conservation and effective use of soil, water resources and vegetation to ensure permanent agricultural productivity, and provision of an effective base for an over-all rural development programme.

4. In the short term, the project's immediate objectives are to: (a) develop national capabilities for land-use planning, inventory and evaluation of the country's land resources; (b) assist in the preparation of a master plan for land use for the whole of Ethiopia, and in the establishment of guidelines for the improved use of land resources for each region; (c) develop appropriate methodology for land-use studies and land use planning at the regional, subregional and village levels; (d) establish a national cadaster of land resources to centralize all available pertinent data; (e) recommend appropriate farm management systems and production structures for the different types and levels of land use required; and (f) train suitably qualified nationals in land-use planning and related techniques and procedures.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide for the services of a team of seven experts, made up of a chief technical adviser and specialists in agro-ecology, land resources and agricultural economics. These will be supplemented by eighteen man-months of short-term consultancy services, and by two United Nations volunteers. A sub-contract is envisaged to cover various aspects of cartographic work. The training activities to be financed under the UNDP contribution will cover seven fellowships in land evaluation, land-use planning, aerial photography, soil chemistry and soil testing; there will also be study tours and in-service training. The UNDP budget also provides for equipment and miscellaneous costs.

6. The Government will provide the national staff, buildings ancillary facilities, as well as the services relating thereto.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the UNDP contribution are as follows:

	m/m	$
Personnel	234	1 337 300
Subcontract		137 000
Training		115 000
Equipment		382 000
Miscellaneous		77 000
		2 048 300

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $US1 375 200 in kind.